The 25th October 1901.

The following is the Dewan's Address read at the opening of the Assembly—

GENTLEMEN,

Before proceeding to give an account of the administration of the different Departments of the State during the past year, Her Highness the Maharani-Regent has commanded me to once more refer in this Assembly of her leading subjects to the great loss we have all sustained by the death in the beginning of this year of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria after a long reign of sixty-four years—an event which has affected us not merely in common with the teeming millions of the British Empire but with the whole mankind over whose hearts the good Queen had as firmly established her dominion by her personal virtues, as she had done over those of her own subjects by the beneficent exercise of her Sovereign power.

2. The accession of His Most Gracious Majesty Emperor Edward to the throne is an event of the greatest interest and importance to us. His Majesty who has honoured his vast dominions in this country with a personal visit will, we may feel confident, ever cherish us with the same tender solicitude as did his illustrious Mother.

3. Towards the end of November last, we had the signal honour of a Viceregal visit to the State. His Excellency Lord Curzon drove up from the coast to witness the magnificent sight of the Jog Falls, and our Western District had thus the opportunity of welcoming the first Viceroy that graced those out-of-the-way places with his presence. The two capital cities and the jungles of the Mysore District were visited from the other side. We can never too highly estimate the advantages of having a Viceroy who has a direct and intimate knowledge from personal observation of our country. One gracious function which the Viceroy was pleased to perform while at Mysore was the unveiling of the equestrian statue of His Highness the late Maharaja. The Park around the statue has been named after His Excellency to commemorate this visit of Lord and Lady Curzon.

4. Another event over which we had recently to mourn was the death of Rajya-dhurandhara Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, within the short period of six months of his laying down his office. It gave Her Highness very great pain as it did to us all, that the late Dewan, after such a long and distinguished career, should not have been spared to enjoy the rest he had so well earned. I am sure you will feel the loss of his able and eminent services, which came upon us all much sooner than was expected, as keenly as I do, who was for a long period his colleague and assistant in the work of the administration.

5. *Season.*—During the 12 months which ended with June last, the average rainfall throughout the State was far more satisfactory than in the previous year, in respect of both monsoons, and proved to be somewhat better also than the average of the preceding 20 years. Under its influence, ample harvests and high prices more than compensated for the defects of the previous year. The current agricultural year also promises to be satisfactory. The pre-monsoon rains in April and May were seasonable and plentiful. They stimulated early sowings, which, with small exceptions, have, on the whole, yielded fair harvests. These would have been better, were it not for a serious failure in the South-West monsoon in June, July and August. The deficiency was great enough to threaten young crops of ragi in various parts of the Province and to retard its sowings in the Eastern tracts. Apprehensions arose of drought and widespread distress. There was an immigration of people in search of employment from Cuddapa, North Arcot and Anantapur Districts of the Madras Presidency where the seasons had been unfavourable. Special works were started in

parts of the Kolar District. But good rains falling in September have saved the situation.

6. *General Health.*—In the matter of public health, however, the past year was very unfavourable, and as a result of the larger prevalence of various diseases, the number of deaths exceeded that of births by more than 20,000.

Cholera was particularly bad, accounting for 9,620 deaths against only 120 in the previous year. There was also an increase of deaths from fevers and small-pox.

It was unfortunate that plague, which had shown signs of dying out in many parts of the State, again became widespread during this year. The number of deaths rose from 5,001 to 13,573. The District of Shimoga, which had remained altogether free, became infected in September 1900, and Kadur also for the first time, in January 1901. The District of Chitaldrug, which in some of its parts had suffered most during the previous year, enjoyed immunity throughout this year.

7. In the Mysore District, the number of cases rose from 1,237 to 3,589. On the whole, there were 17,959 cases, the number for the previous year bing 6,596. In the Mysore City, the enormous number of 6,817 deaths was reached, the previous year's figure having been only 548.

8. You may remember that the worst period was about this time last year, the highest number reached being on the eighth day of the Dasara, and the sitting of this Assembly had on that account to be suspended for the second time; but the milder course of the disease has enabled Her Highness the Maharani-Regent to direct the meeting of the Assembly this year.

9. *Census and Population.*—A general Census of the population of Mysore was taken on the night of the 1st of March 1901, at the same time as in other parts of India. The rough totals show that, including the Assigned Tracts of Bangalore, the population is 5,538,482, which shows an increase of 595,000 or a little over 12 per cent for the decade since 1891, when the total was returned as 4,943,604.

10. Taking the figures separately by defined tracts, the Kolar Gold Fields exhibit the enormous increase of 436 per cent due, of course, mainly to immigration on account of the Gold Mining industry. Of the Districts which may be taken to have progressed only under normal conditions, Chitaldrug takes the lead with an increase of 20 per cent, Kolar and Tumkur come next with 17 per cent, and Bangalore District shows 15 per cent, while Mysore with 11 per cent, and Hassan and Kadur (with 10 per cent) approximate to the provincial rate of increase. Shimoga District has been practically stationary, with a nominal increase of 1 per cent, while the dread visitation of the plague has left its mark by creating a fall in the City (13 per cent) and Station (11 per cent) of Bangalore and in Mysore (8 per cent).

11. Comparing together the present figures with those of 1871, we find that famine and plague greatly checked the normal growth of population, and after the lapse of thirty years, there has been an increase of only ten per cent.

12. I shall now lay before you an account of the condition of the finances of the year which ended in June last.

Finance.

13. From the appended (preliminary) statements, you will find that the ordinary income and expenditure were Rs. 1,81,87,475 and Rs. 1,79,79,417, showing a surplus of Rs. 5,08,058. The addition of Railway receipts and disbursements (Rs.6,60,043 and Rs. 10,40,609) on both sides of the account, reduced this surplus to Rs. 1,27,492. By taking into account the capital expenditure on the Kavery Power

Transmission Scheme (Rs. 19,30,558), this surplus is converted into a deficit of Rs. 18,03,066, as against the larger deficit of Rs. 31,12,873 of the previous year.

14. It may be observed that the total revenue realized this year has been the highest ever reached except in the year 1897-98, when it exceeded this sum by nearly a lakh and a half. The receipts of 1900-01 exceed those of the year preceding it by Rs. 1,43,776, which is the net favorable difference between the total of increases (Rs. 11,57,730) and that of decreases (Rs. 10,13,954).

15. The most considerable increases occurred in the items of Land Revenue, Excise, Gold Mining and Railways.

Receipts—Increases.

16. *Land Revenue.*—Under "Land Revenue," the large increase of Rs. 3,25,666 was due to better collection, on account of more prosperous agricultural conditions, of both the arrears and the current year's demand, the latter accounting for nearly 2¼ lakhs.

17. The demand also under this item showed an increase of nearly a lakh on the previous year. The assessment on lands newly taken up amounted to Rs. 1,07,740, and that on lands relinquished to Rs. 35,488. The sale proceeds of lands brought in an increase of about Rs. 42,000.

18. *Excise.*—The increase of Rs. 1,14,937 in the Excise revenue was largely contributed by toddy, chiefly as rental.

19. There was a fall in the consumption of arrack throughout the State, the decrease being from 325,563 to 303,179 gallons, about 6·87 per cent.

20. This was the third year in which the tree-tax system was in operation, and the results show that it has become successfully established.

21. *Gold Mining.*—There was a larger production of gold in the Mines than in the previous year, the outturn, according to the preliminary accounts received, being 505,292 oz. (about 1,300 maunds) of the certified value of £ 1,921,103 against 375,668 oz., valued at £ 1,809,112.

22. The five per cent royalty due to Government was £ 96,055 as against £90,455 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 84,000, but as part of the royalty due for the previous year was credited after its close, the excess under this head came to Rs. 2,43,000.

23. *Railways.*—Under State Railways there is a large increase of Rs. 3,64,343; but owing to the longer periods to which the receipts credited during the past year refer, the increase is to a large extent only apparent, as each year's income is not always credited in our exchange accounts with the companies concerned within the particular year to which it refers. A sum of Rs. 26,000 was for the first time credited in the accounts of 1900-01 for the Birur-Shimoga line.

24. *Minor Items.*—An increase of Rs. 60,000 appears as a miscellaneous item under General Administration, being the value of a Government building known as Melville House, sold to the estate of Princess Krishnajammanni Avaru.

25. On the other side, large decreases occurred under "Forests," "State Investments," "Interest" and "Other items."

Receipts—Decreases.

26. *Forests.*—There was a large fall of a lakh and three-quarters under sandalwood, a part of the stock having been held back from sale for want of proper offers. Receipts under Kheddas also decreased by about Rs. 5,000. There were enhanced receipts from Timber and Minor Forest produce of about Rs. 80,000, with the result of reducing the deficiency to a little over one lakh of rupees.

27. *State Investments.*—You are aware that a special Trust Fund was formed in 1899-00 for the redemption of the Southern Mahratta Railway loan of £ 1,200,000, when it will fall due about 35 years hence. The Railway Loan Repayment Fund was closed, and its accumulated interest (Rs. 6,15,340) which was not required for the new Trust Fund, credited to the Surplus investment interest account. This is an item which of course disappears from the accounts of 1900-1901.

28. Government of India securities of the value of 17 lakhs and a quarter were sold during the past year, and the loss of interest on that account caused a reduction by Rs. 34,137.

29. The interest due on deposit of the current cash balances in the Madras Branch Bank was credited only for one-half year in the past year, instead of for two halves as usual. This caused a decrease of Rs. 6,000.

30. *Interest on Loans and arrears of revenue.*—The Jodhpur loan of 25½ lakhs having been transferred to the Railway Redemption Trust Fund, the loss of interest thereon accounts mainly for the decrease under this head.

31. I shall now proceed to explain the important differences in expenditure under various heads of account during the past year.

Expenditure.—Increases.

32. *Land Revenue.*—Under "Land Revenue," the large sum of Rs. 66,000 was paid in excess over the previous year on account of arrears of remuneration due to Shanbhogs and Patels, and of land inams. There was an increase of about Rs. 6,500 under travelling allowances of District and Taluk officials, Rs. 3,500 increase of establishment and other charges of the Survey and Settlement Department, and together with some minor items, the total increase came to Rs. 96,000.

33. *Excise.*—The increase of Rs. 48,000 under "Excise" was composed of about Rs. 11,000 due to the pay etc., of certain Assistant Commissioners newly transferred to the Department having been charged for the whole year instead of only a part as in the previous year; about Rs. 12,000 due to the payment of arrears due to, and entertainment of the full complement of, the temporary establishment, Rs. 11,500 under travelling allowances, and of other minor items amounting to about Rs. 13,500.

34. *Savings Bank Deposits.*—The closing balance of Savings Bank Deposits rose to Rs. 51,12,440 from Rs. 46,04,480 in the previous year: and on this account, there was an excess charge of Rs. 33,626 for interest.

35. *Education.*—The grant of periodical increments of salaries and the opening of new schools account for an enhanced expenditure by Rs. 20,569.

36. *Medical.*—The opening of the Victoria Hospital caused an increase of Rs. 32,440, the increase of pay of Medical Officers of about Rs. 17,000, contribution to leave and retiring allowances of British Officers lent, of Rs. 6,602, and these increases together with some minor ones came up to Rs. 63,108.

37. *Government Houses.*—The increase, chiefly on account of purchase and renewal of carriages and purchase of new furniture, crockery, glassware etc., amounted to more than Rs. 58,000, which was reduced by about Rs. 14,000 under entertainment of guests.

38. *Scientific and Minor Departments.*—There was an increase of Rs. 39,000 under Census, of about Rs. 15,000 under Geological Department, due to the appointment of one of the officers as a Deputy Inspector, and for contingencies, library and other miscellaneous charges, of about Rs. 6,400 under Agricultural experiments and

of about Rs. 7,000 on minor accounts. Reduced by decreases amounting to about Rs. 9,000, the net increase of charges for "Scientific and Minor Departments" came to Rs. 58,561.

39. *Government Pro-Note Transactions.*—The sale of Government of India Pro-Notes of the nominal value of about 17 lakhs caused a loss in discount of Rs. 61,493.

40. *Other Items.*—The charges on account of the Viceregal Reception and entertainment of distinguished guests account for about Rs. 89,000. About Rs. 41,000 extra was spent on monuments etc., of His Highness the late Maharaja. About Rs. 55,500 was adjusted during the year on account of Royal marriages; Rs. 15,000 was bonus paid to the Plague Commissioner; Rs. 12,592 the charges of Kotvali Establishment transferred from the 'Judicial' to this head.

41. *Military.*—About Rs. 20,000 appears as excess expenditure for purchase and repair of arms etc., Rs. 13,000 for vacancies in the Barr Establishment having been filled up, Rs. 11,000 under pensions due to enhanced rates and increase in number, and about Rs. 19,000 under various other minor heads. On the other hand, there had been a casual item of about Rs. 24,000 incurred in the previous year to supply full dress uniform for the Imperial Service Regiment. The net increase of expenditure under the head 'Military' was Rs. 38,973.

Expenditure—Decreases.

42. The decrease of Rs. 86,812 was due to lapses under Forests (conservancy and works), and Rs. 2,14,018 less than in the previous year was spent on Plague measures.

43. Under State Railways, the large sum of Rs. 24,80,904 paid during the previous year for the formation of the Railway Redemption Trust Fund, of course, disappears from the account of the past year. Rs. 3,63,051 and Rs. 1,52,624 are similar non-recurring items, relating respectively to works on Birur-Shimoga and Kolar Gold Fields Lines, and similar items of small amounts appear for other works. All these gave an apparent saving of expenditure in the past year, as compared with the previous year of Rs. 30,11,812. From this have to be deducted, being items of extra expenditure, Rs. 2,30,028, guaranteed interest having been adjusted for 15 months in 1900-01 in place of 11 months in the previous year, Rs. 35,050 on account of Coast Railway survey, Rs. 17,363 expenditure on State Carriages and a small sum of Rs. 2,710 under the head "direction and accounts." The resulting saving comes to about 27¼ lakhs.

44. *Collection Charges.*—The charges of collection according to calculation came to about 16¾ per cent for Land Revenue, (including Salt, Sayer and Mohatarfa), 4 per cent for Stamps, 9 per cent for Excise, while for Forests, it was 30 per cent. It will be readily seen that the large expenditure on Forests, which but for the heavy lapses already noticed would have been more considerable, is occasioned mainly by operations of conserving and improving this store of the country's natural wealth.

45. *Revenue Surplus Account.*—The Revenue Surplus at the beginning of 1900-1901 was Rs. 87,95,316. Deducting the deficit of Rs. 18,03,066 of the year, the closing balance was Rs. 69,92,250.

46. *Cash and Government Paper Balance.*—The balance in Cash and Government Securities, including the State and Public Debt Funds not separately invested, was Rs. 146,09,391 on 1st July 1900. The net credit under Public Debt was Rs. 2,32,407. Subtracting the deficit of the year from these sums, the balance was Rs. 130,38,732 which was composed of Rs. 76,57,500 in Government of India and other securities,

Rs. 17,95,593 cash in Madras Bank and Rs. 35,85,639 cash in Government Treasuries and Departments.

BUDGET FOR 1901-1902.

47. The Budget Estimates of the State for the current year provide for an income estimated at Rs. 1,87,76,000 (including 5 lakhs from Railways), as against Rs. 1,89,71,000 estimated, and Rs. 1,91,47,518 actual receipts of the past year.

48. The expenditure on all heads of General Administration is estimated at Rs. 1,52,84,400, the Public Works expenditure from State Funds at Rs. 26,40,000, that on Sanitary Works (in addition to the grant of Rs. 1,20,000 from the ordinary Public Works grant) at Rs. 49,000 and the Railway expenditure at Rs. 7,58,000. A sum of 19 lakhs is provided for the Kavery Power Transmission Scheme. The total estimated expenditure is thus Rs. 2,06,31,000, which makes a deficit of Rs. 18,55,000. This, it will be observed, is considerably less than the capital expenditure of 19 lakhs on the Kavery Power Scheme and 3½ lakhs on the Marikanave Project.

49. A sum of Rs. 3,44,000 has been included, in the expenditure provided for General Administration, under "Military" for the formation of an independent Transport Corps for purposes of Imperial defence consisting of 300 carts and 700 ponies. Her Highness the Maharani-Regent animated by the same loyal instincts which induced her royal spouse, when organising Cavalry regiments for Imperial Service, made towards the latter part of 1897 an offer to raise a Transport Corps, which was accepted by the Government of India in March 1898. The opportunity thus afforded of once more associating this State with the paramount power in the defence of the Empire, has been most cheerfully embraced and the formation of the corps has been decided upon and commenced this year. It is expected that the first division will be ready about December next, and the full organization completed before the end of 1904. The whole initial equipment will probably cost five lakhs, the yearly maintenance increasing the Military Budget by an annual sum of a little more than two lakhs. As a set-off for this increase, the strength of the two Cavalry Regiments has been reduced by 200 Sowars.

50. *District Funds.*—The income under all heads of District Funds amounted to Rs. 5,89,253, and including the opening balance, the sum available for expenditure was Rs. 8,31,397. Out of this, Rs. 5,74,002 was spent, the details being Rs. 4,44,960 on public works, Rs. 19,650 on sanitation, Rs. 56,721 in affording medical aid, Rs. 19,809 for accommodation to travellers and the rest on miscellaneous items.

Local Revenue.

51. *Local Funds General.*—The receipts under 'Local Funds General' amounted to Rs. 1,11,664 and with the opening balance of Rs. 2,27,458, a sum of Rs. 3,39,122 was available. The total expenditure was Rs. 98,578.

52. *Village School Fund.*—The amount credited to village school fund during the year was Rs. 2,20,389-9-7 and with the opening balance, the total sum available was Rs. 5,26,662-6-10. Of this amount, a sum of Rs. 2,67,844-8-1 was expended.

53. *Municipal Funds.*—Three new Municipalities were constituted during the year, the present number being 124. When the new Local Boards Regulation comes into force, it is expected that there will be no necessity for increasing the number of petty Municipalities.

54. The receipts under all heads of Municipal income amounted to Rs. 7,02,476, of which Rs. 5,32,307 was realized from taxation and the balance from loans and grants-in-aid from Government and other miscellaneous sources. Including the opening balance, the sum available for expenditure during the year was Rs. 10,36,395. The chief items of expenditure were Rs. 1,77,857 on conservancy, Rs. 1,82,643 on public works, Rs. 40,921 in rendering medical aid, Rs. 12,983 on plague prevention and sanitary measures and Rs. 38,000 on Education.

		Rs.
i.	Octroi ...	2,20,085
ii.	House-tax ...	1,59,903
iii.	Lighting ...	4,480
iv.	License receipts ...	30,360
v.	Carriage tax ...	661
vi.	Tax on animals ...	1,076
vii.	Mohatarfa ...	1,00,207
viii.	Tolls and Ferries ...	15,535
	Total ...	5,32,307

Revenue Survey and Settlement.

55. The Survey and Settlement of all the taluks in the State has now been completed. The introduction of the settlement into the Sringeri Jahgir has been delayed to some extent owing to the difficulty of allocating minor inams. The leading feature of the year's operation has been the commencement of the Revision Survey, which has already been completed in Davangere and Hiriyur Taluks. There can be no doubt of the absolute necessity of the re-survey in the interests both of the Government and of the people, and it will be pushed on rapidly and in a thorough manner.

Forests.

56. The chief events in connection with Forest administration were the introduction of the new Mysore Forest Regulation from 1st January 1901 and of a scheme to revise and strengthen the executive and protective staffs, which, however, was only partially carried out before the close of the year.

57. The extent of area newly reserved as State Forests was about 191 square miles. The area fire-protected was 1,649 out of a total extent of 1,948 square miles of State Forests, of which there was a failure in only 20 square miles.

Mining and Geological Survey.

58. The Kolar Gold Fields still continues to be the producing centre for gold; but preliminary operations have been carried on in the Kadur and Mysore Districts. In the latter, work has been commenced in the South Amble Block, which has been taken over by the New Kempinkote Gold Fields (Limited). The number of mines at work was 14 as in last year, of which 5, *i. e.*, one more than last year, paid dividends to share-holders.

59. Corundum is the only other mineral in the State attracting any attention at present. As the sale by auctions has not been attended with satisfactory results, the practice has been stopped, and new rules have been introduced for developing this revenue.

60. To ensure a more systematic inspection of the Mines, the Deputy Inspector has been stationed on the Field. To provide for another urgent want, a project for water-supply at a cost of 11 lakhs has been prepared, and is now receiving the consideration of Government.

Public Works.

61. The total expenditure incurred on works of all descriptions (other than Railways) carried out during the year by the Public Works Department, amounted to Rs. 43,54,077, exclusive of the English payment, £102,122-15-4, equivalent to Rs. 15,31,841.

62. *Buildings.*—The following details concerning some of the more important works in hand may be of interest. The new lines for the Imperial Service Troops at

Bangalore were completed. The re-construction of the Palace at Mysore was pushed forward rapidly. The Ambavilas Durbar Hall was practically finished and roofed in. On the main building, a considerable portion of the work has been completed and most of the iron work and other materials are already on the spot.

63. The Victoria Hospital at Bangalore, which was started in 1897 in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her late Majesty Empress Victoria, was finished, and it was formally opened by His Excellency Lord Curzon, the Viceroy and Governor General of India. The construction of the subsidiary buildings is now in hand.

64. Fair progress was also made on the construction of the Agricultural Chemist's Office and Laboratory at Bangalore, the new High School at Tumkur, the Officials' quarters at Koppa and the Taluk Cutcherry at Srinivaspur; while the Students' Home at Bangalore and the Taluk Cutcherries at Gundlupet, Koppa and Tarikere were practically completed.

65. *Communications.*—Under the head 'Communications,' the principal works in hand were, the opening out of a new road from the Balaghat Railway Station to the 11th mile of the Ooregum Gold Fields Railway feeder, and the second section of the Saklespur-Gonibid road; the widening and extension of the Bababudan Hill road and the Sagar-Malnad roads; the metalling and improving of the Gundlupet-Sultan's Battery road and the Narsipur-Chamarajnagar road; and the bridging of the difficult river crossings on the Anantapur-Tirthahalli, the Saklespur-Arehalli and the Manjarabad-Subramanya roads.

66. *Miscellaneous Public Improvements.*—Works of miscellaneous public improvements were chiefly concerned with the requirements of the extensions in the City of Bangalore and with improvement of the water-supply of the City of Mysore.

67. *Irrigation.*—The most important work of irrigation is the Marikanave Reservoir, which was started three years ago, chiefly as a famine protective work in the arid District of Chitaldrug and which, when completed, will be one of the largest artificial lakes in India. The work turned out consisted chiefly of (1) founding the dam for a length of 213 feet, (2) excavating the fault on the north side of the rocky river bed to a depth of 70 feet and its filling in, (3) constructing 1,585,704 cubic feet of masonry to the dam, and (4) erecting an over-head wire rope tramway to convey stones to the actual place of work. The first shipment of Stoney's Patent sluice shutters ordered from England has been received and the entire work is progressing satisfactorily. The question of generating electric power for industrial purposes from the power obtainable from the water passing through the irrigation sluice has been engaging the attention of Government. During the year, 30 feet of water was stored in the reservoir against 4 in the previous year.

68. Good progress was also made on the other large incomplete irrigation works of the previous year, *viz.*, the restoration of the Bethamangala tank in the Kolar District, the construction of the new Mavathur tank in the Tumkur District, the Kalhalli, Chikmadore, Mirsabihalli and Parasurampur new tanks in the Chitaldrug District, the restoration of the Kempasagara, Kotebetta, Kirgaval and Markal tanks and the new aqueduct at $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Chikkadevarayasagar channel in the Mysore District, and the restoration of the breached portion of the Changarvalli anikat in the Hassan District. The following works were either completed or are approaching completion; the opening out of the right bank channel from the Ramasamudram tank in the Kolar District; the restoration of Thimmanahalli, Tangalmadu and Jailadu tanks in the Tumkur District, the Hulhalli channel improvement and

extension, the Kalhalli anikat re-construction, and the Kargala tank restoration in the Mysore District; the Sulekere tank restoration and the new Belalkere dam in the Shimoga District; and the restoration of Kuksandra and Madag tanks in the Kadur District. The construction of a new anikat across the Nagini river in lieu of the breached Gamane *ane* near Sankanapur in the Tumkur District was sanctioned during the year and the dam built to a height of 7 feet.

69. *Sanitation.*—The chief sanitary works under execution during the year were the opening out of conservancy lanes in the congested parts of the Bangalore City and the water-supply works for the towns of Kolar, Chitaldrug and Yedatore with drainage for the last mentioned place. Seeing how important this branch of the work is in the interests of the people, and considering the magnitude of what has to be accomplished, Government will always accord a liberal treatment to questions of sanitary improvement.

70. *The Kavery Falls Power Scheme.*—The Kavery Falls Power Scheme, which was mentioned last year, is now well on the way towards completion.

71. At Sivasamudra, the river works and about four-fifths of the supply channels have been completed. All quarters, office and store and other buildings are finished, with power-station buildings well in hand and all materials required for their completion collected at site.

72. For the transmission line the buildings at Sarjapur are completed, and those at Kankanhalli and the two inspection lodges at miles 35 and 79 are progressing. Twelve miles of poles have been erected and distribution of poles on line proceeding apace, the progress of erection averaging about half a mile daily.

73. The distribution buildings are well advanced and foundations for the new machinery commenced, all materials both for buildings and line construction being collected at site.

74. All copper wire and over-head travelling cranes with various other minor items of plant are received and stored. Heavy shipments of both electric and hydraulic machinery together with piping for penstocks, etc., are *en route* to India The question of providing properly trained men to work the scheme, after it is handed over by the contractors to our management, from among the Engineering staff, and if possible, by giving selected candidates good practical training in America, is being considered by Government.

75. On the whole, the progress may be regarded as very satisfactory, and it is hoped that the scheme will be completed and in full working order by 1st May next.

76. *Memorial Works.*—The memorial works of H. H. the late Maharaja at Calcutta, Mysore and Seringapatam, are making fair progress.

77. For the twenty years since 1881, the total expenditure on Public Works has been 554 lakhs, the yearly average being about 27½ lakhs. 206 lakhs of this large sum has been spent on works of Irrigation, 191½ on local Communications, 45 on Miscellaneous Public Improvements, and 111½ on Government buildings. It will still be the policy of Government to give liberal grant for the execution of Public Works, but a better proportioned distribution after this long period seems somewhat desirable.

78. In the matter of roads, it has been found that their annual maintenance already over-taxes the income at the disposal of our Local Boards in most Districts. The Provincial roads also require a large annual allotment for their proper up-keep.

It seems, therefore advisable that, for some years to come, projects for bridges should have priority over those for new roads.

79. The want of a settled policy or rather of the due enforcement of one, in respect of small irrigation works has resulted in the gradual deterioration of minor tanks on account of continued neglect. These tanks, though individually small, are by their number and convenient situation for serving the needs of men and cattle in villages, very important and in fact indispensable in the interests of the rural population. Though, from a revenue point of view, they may appear not to press on public notice as much as larger tanks, they cannot be despised even as aids to agriculture. Leaky sluices, damaged weirs and other similar defects of these tanks have long been left untouched. Their number and situation are such that expenditure on them is spread over a very large area, and may be too small in each individual case to be easily checked. The question, however, is of vital importance to the agricultural community and demands early solution. The allotments of more funds than hitherto for this purpose is as essential to success as the hearty co-operation of the raiyats benefiting by the work.

An investigation has been ordered into the facilities of irrigation existing in the State, and a Superintending Engineer has been deputed for ascertaining how far the existing resources have been utilized and with what results, and what future possibilites of development exist.

80. Extreme drought and consequent distress in a limited area in the Kolar District brought the question of famine relief prominently before Government. It was found that there were no matured plans and estimates for any of the unsanctioned works included in the relief programmes. Measures have therefore been adopted for rectifying these defects, and also for having in readiness the necessary implements of labour for use on emergent occasions. It is also in contemplation to revise the Famine Code in the light of later experience.

81. *Railway.*—The total net earnings on the open lines of State Railway amounted to Rs. 6,04,478. The return on capital invested was as usual highest on the Kolar Gold Fields line, being 7·45 per cent. The lowest was the Birur-Shimoga line while the main lines from Mysore to Hirihar and Bangalore to Hindupur yielded nearly an equal return of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

82. The main item in the expenditure of Rs. 9,81,455 was Rs. 8,06,171 paid to the Southern Mahratta Railway Company for guaranteed interest and their (one-fourth) share of surplus profits on account of Mysore-Harihar line. On capital account, Rs. 1,05,271 was spent on construction in connection with Birur-Shimoga and Kolar Gold Fields lines, and Rs. 66,835 on Surveys for connecting Mysore with the Western Coast.

83. The preparation of projects for the Arsikere-Mangalore and Mysore-Tellicherry lines on narrow or light gauge is in progress.

84. In order to give relief to the District Court of the Ashtagram Division, where the disposal of Civil work had been greatly delayed, a new Court of District and Sessions Judge was established at Hassan from the 1st of November 1900, with jurisdiction over the Revenue Districts of Hassan and Kadur. The Subordinate Judge's Court of Shimoga was at the same time abolished.

Judicial.

85. In response to requests often urged on the score of public convenience, the Court of the Munsiff of Nelamangala was transferred to Dodballapur, with jurisdiction

over the Taluks of Dodballapur, Devanhalli, Nelamangala and Goribidnur; and Magadi was transferred to the Additional Munsiff of Bangalore, and Kunigal to the Munsiff of Tumkur.

Police.

86. There was a new appointment of a Deputy Inspector General of Police to be in charge of the Head-quarter Office, but this has been since abolished.

87. A new Superintendent was appointed to be specially in charge of the Gold Fields and the adjacent tracts, and one Chief and 5 Head Constables and 40 men were added to the existing force there. Better arms were supplied. The force is nevertheless said to be inadequate, and a further increase is under contemplation.

88. The system of watch at *Ukkads* chiefly by *totis* and *talaris* was made permanent during this year.

Legislation.

89. The following are some of the principal Regulations which have been passed:—

(1) Game Regulation.
(2) Regulation to amend the Mysore Civil Courts Regulation, I of 1883.
(3) Regulation to amend the Mysore Military Regulation, II of 1899.
(4) Excise Regulation.
(5) The Mysore Forest Regulation.
(6) Local Boards Regulation.

90. Of the above, the 1st and the 6th were long pending ones, and it is a matter for satisfaction that they have at last been passed into law. The Forest Regulation supplied a long-felt desideratum, as the rules of 1878 had been found defective in important details. It had been repeatedly urged by Planters and other persons interested in sport that the indiscriminate destruction of wild animals and birds should be prevented. The necessity for a Local Boards Regulation was first explained in the Dewan's Address of 1882, and the need for a revision of the Excise law had long been felt.

91. Among the Draft Regulations which are under consideration, I would mention for your careful attention, those which relate to the Police, the Municipalities and Weights and Measures.

Education.

92. There were 4,009 Educational institutions, public and private, with 99,408 boys and 15,754 girls, being an increase of 125 institutions and 2,356 boys and 1,306 girls over the numbers of the previous year. The percentage of boys under instruction to those of the school-going age was 24·09 and of girls 4·22.

93. The total amount spent on education was Rs. 9,48,736 which was made up of—

Rs. 6,42,493 from State Funds.
„ 2,67,844 from Village School Funds and Rs. 38,399 from Municipal Funds.

94. The income from school fees was Rs. 90,775 and from other sources Rs. 88,358.

95. There was a fair degree of success obtained in the University Examinations. The number of scholarships paid by Government last year for study outside Mysore was 62, of which 1 was for Engineering, 49 for Medicine, 3 for Teaching, 8 for Forestry and 1 for study in England.

96. A sum of Rs. 45 a month was sanctioned for scholarships for apprentices in the Artware Factory in Mysore, and Rs. 100 a month for the benefit of poor and

deserving pupils of Primary schools prosecuting their studies to the standard of Lower Secondary Examinations.

97. For the encouragement of proficiency in Arabic, Persian and Hindustani, and to provide qualified Munshis for Colleges and High Schools, classes were opened in connection with the Government Normal School, Mysore. A scheme for a Maulvi's examination corresponding to the Pundits' examination was drawn up and notified. Arabic has been introduced into the Upper Secondary course.

98. Education of girls has been steadily advancing. 19 girls passed the Lower Secondary Examination.

99. The Maharani's College of Mysore, as usual, showed good progress. A revised scale of salaries has been fixed for Lady Teachers so as to give them definite prospects of advancement as incentives to hard work.

100. The re-organization of the inspecting staff, the revision of the rates of school fees and the increase of pay of the Vernacular Masters, are engaging the attention of Government.

101. The encouragement of Industrial education, the establishment of special schools for weaving and other established industries in Mysore and the introduction of drawing or manual work into Primary and Secondary schools are other questions demanding early consideration.

102. It is probable that literary education has drawn away too many of our young men from other important and necessary walks of life. The system of opening English classes in small rural schools seems, thus, to require careful re-consideration. The most pressing of the reforms in this matter is to find out methods of imparting education which shall be of more practical use, not only to those who wish to begin as clerks in Government service or teachers in schools, but to all, according to their needs, who wish to engage themselves in the numerous professions and industries, so necessary for the prosperity of the country. Not less necessary is it to devise ways of imparting a fairly liberal education by means of the vernaculars of the country, without endangering thereby, the progress of the more advanced course of learning possible at present and for many years to come, only through the medium of the English language.

103. The total number of inscriptions dealt with by the Archæological Department was 4,152.

Archæology.

104. An important date (750 A. C.) is supplied as the 25th year of Sripurusha of the Ganga dynasty by a set of copper-plate inscriptions.

105. The identification of the birthplace of the Hoysalas with Angadi in Mudagere taluk has been confirmed.

106. A special officer for this Department was first appointed in 1891 to introduce reforms in the management of the religious and charitable institutions, and it was expected at the time that the work would not occupy more than three or four years. The appointment, however, continued till April last, when it was abolished on the retirement of Rai Bahadur Mr. Srinivasacharlu. The Deputy Secretary has been placed in charge of the Secretariat duties, and the Deputy Commissioners of Districts have been given a wider control over the Muzrai institutions in their Districts as before. In other respects, the system remains the same, under the effective control and guidance of

Muzrai.

Government, the separate Secretariat establishment being, as hitherto, in charge of all Muzrai duties.

State Insurance.

107. The State Insurance Fund had an opening balance of Rs. 5,43,677-15-6 at the beginning of the year and the receipts were Rs. 1,45,837-3-8. Deducting the expenditure for the year, Rs. 17,239-10-1, the closing balance at its credit was Rs. 6,72,275-9-1.

108. The number of current policies at the end of the year was 2,869, and the sum of monthly premia due Rs. 11,395-8-0, the sum assured being Rs. 31,66,147-8-0. It is gratifying to learn that, in the opinion of experts, the fund is in a very satisfactory condition.

Agricultural Banks.

109. The number of Agricultural Banks was, as in the previous year, sixty-four, of which four did not transact any business.

110. It is unfortunate that these Banks have not worked as successfully as was expected at the time of their institution by Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer in 1894. It was considered that, if the spirit of co-operation among the people was stimulated, the existing inability of the agriculturist to obtain credit except at usurious rates of interest would diminish to a large extent. The rules consequently provided for the preservation of the rural character of the Banks and the limitation of area from which the members were to be drawn, the joint and several unlimited liability of the members for the debts of the Bank, the absence of a share capital, the grant of loans only to members and for approved purposes, the exclusive application of the money lent to such purposes, the absolute punctuality in repayment, the gratuitous service of the members—all calculated to ensure success to the establishment of a system of borrowing on beneficial terms by means of combined credit. In 1894-95, the first year in which the scheme was placed on a workable basis, a modest beginning was made with two Banks. They were followed by three more in the next year, by seventeen during the third, by thirty-eight in the fourth, and by only four in the subsequent years. A special officer was appointed in December 1896 to examine into the working of the Banks, to scrutinize and report upon new Banks proposed to be formed, and to explain to the inhabitants of rural tracts the principles on which such Banks should be founded and worked. Notwithstanding all these precautions, the scheme has not been an unqualified success. The outbreak of plague and the consequent depression in trade and business can only be said to have very slightly retarded the growth of these institutions. There seem to be deeper causes for this unsatisfactory result, which require to be investigated. Possibly the defect lay in the too easy terms granted by Government. The difference between the rates of interest prescribed for the Banks and the current market rate was so great that borrowing was, in a measure, stimulated beyond the actual bounds of necessity. The members also were not, perhaps, all of them, strictly of the class and occupation for whose benefit such Banks were intended. About 15 lakhs of rupees have been advanced by the State, of which deducting the amount refunded till now, there is still a large outstanding balance of more than Rs. 13,82,000. The Banks have moreover failed to attract deposits to a larger extent than about Rs. 15,000 and the reserve fund has not amounted to more than about Rs. 35,000. The property of the members, which has been looked upon as security for the amount advanced by Government, has been valued, it is true, at about 48 lakhs, but it is possible that the value has been overestimated or has deteriorated in a number of cases.

111. Some steps have already been taken to remedy these defects, but it has to be borne in mind that Government cannot proceed to realize the outstanding debt

in a lump by summarily selling the property without creating hardship to a number of possibly innocent people. The imperative necessity of adhering to a prepared scheme of repayments has been enjoined, and the granting of any further advances has been suspended for the present. A more definite plan of action for the future is receiving serious consideration at the hands of Government.

112. In conclusion, Gentlemen, it gives Her Highness great pleasure to announce to you that His Highness the Maharaja has been fast completing his education under the guidance of his able Tutor and Governor, Mr. Fraser. His Highness will attain his majority within the next few months. Her Highness who, in February 1895, at a time of great affliction to the country, so generously and at such great self-sacrifice undertook the burden of the State and has since sustained it so nobly, looks forward with great eagerness to be relieved of it by her son, our gracious and beloved young Maharaja, and we may hope that, under God's providence, he will, in the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, "become within a very short time the ruler of a tractable and contented people; he will guide the destinies of a picturesque and historic principality; he will inherit the traditions of an administration which, after fifty years of British supervision, has been finally established upon progressive and constitutional lines, and which during the last (seven) years has been so ably conducted by Her Highness the Maharani-Regent."

P. N. KRISHNAMURTI,
Dewan of Mysore.